

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/576,927

Examiner

Quang N. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

REISMAN, RICHARD

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 09/30/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8,10-15,17-22 and 24-59.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 May 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment maybe filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Donald Min on November 11th, 2005.
3. **Please use the attached listing of claims to replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.**
4. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

-- METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UTILIZING THE SOCIAL USAGE
LEARNED FROM MULTI-USER FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE RESOURCE
IDENTITY SIGNIFIER MAPPING --
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 08/31/2005, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

Berstis et al. (US 6,092,100), teach a method and system for intelligently resolving entry of an incorrect uniform resource locator (URL), wherein if a given URL (*i.e., resource identity signifier*) is entered incorrectly at the Web client, a fuzzy URL detection scheme automatically performs a fuzzy search that returns a list of URLs that most closely match what was originally entered into the browser address field. The user can then select the correct URL from the list and launch the browser to the desired site, or to a directory or file within that site (**Berstis, Abstract**).

Bates et al. (US 6,873,982), teach a method and system for ordering search results based on user feedback, wherein the search engine 62 periodically updates the user feedback information stored in search database 63 through a separate thread 94, in response to information stored in staging table 68 which records information regarding the interaction of a user with a particular record from the particular records in a result set and staging table 69 which tracks search requests received from users of the search engine 62 (**Bates, C8: L43-56**).

However, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a communication method and system for finding, in response to a user input recognized as a resource identity signifier, a single, intended target resource among a plurality of resources available on a network, comprising: receiving a user input; recognizing the user input as a resource identity signifier, wherein the resource identity signifier is independent of registered elements contained in a resource locator identifying at least one of a plurality of resources available on the network; accessing, by a finder server responsive to the user input, database information that includes an

index of available resources on the network, wherein the network comprises a plurality of interconnected computers, wherein some of the plurality of resources are identified by resource locators containing registered elements; learning a social usage of the recognized resource identity signifier from multi-user feedback gathered from a plurality of users with respect to previous results by the finder server, and determining which, if any, of the indexed resources is likely to be the intended target resource that uniquely corresponds to the recognized resource identity signifier based on the social usage of the recognized resource identity signifier without regard to identification in the recognized resource identity signifier of registered elements in any resource locator corresponding to the resource as set forth in independent claims 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-32, 36, 39, 51, 54 and 57. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22 and 24-59 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitations listed above.

The examiner finds the Applicant's arguments on pages 43-46 of the Remarks filed on 08/31/2005 to be persuasive. The applicant argued in substance that the combination of prior art of records fail to disclose the features of the invention including recognizing the user input as a resource identity signifier, wherein the resource identity signifier is independent of registered elements contained in a resource locator identifying at least one of a plurality of resources available on the network; and determining which, if any, of the indexed resources is likely to be the intended target resource that uniquely corresponds to the recognized resource identity signifier based on a social usage of the recognized resource identity signifier without regard to identification in the recognized resource identity signifier of registered elements in any

resource locator corresponding to the resource, wherein the social usage of the recognized resource identity signifier is learned from multi-user feedback gathered from a plurality of users with respect to previous results as claimed in the invention to find a desired network resource based on learning the social usage from multi-user feedback from a plurality of users, without knowing any information resembling the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the intended resource (*i.e., knowing information that is "dependent" of the URL*) (see Remarks, pages 44 and see Specification, page 11, lines 21-25).

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Examiner's Amendment."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3886.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's SPE, Rupal Dharia, can be reached at (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER